

Safety Officer

Analyze scenarios and make recommendations about reports involving accidents, injuries, illnesses, fatalities and exposures

References:

NFPA 1521 6.6.2 2008 Edition

IFSTA Fire and Emergency Services Company Officer, 4th edition

Introduction:

The fire and emergency services are high risk professionals. Emergency responders routinely enter hazardous conditions and situations to protect citizens, eliminate hazards, and restore the incident location to a safe environment. During the conduct of these operations, responders suffer higher casualty rates than most other occupations. Often overlooked are the risks that are not related to emergency response, such as those that are encountered in the station or while performing routing duties. The safety officer can provide a positive role model for safe behavior to members of the company. The safety officer has the responsibility to investigate and analysis causes of accidents, injuries, and health exposures of the company. Additionally, once analyzed, corrective action must be taken to remove the factors the lead to these events.

Directions:

Using the attached documentation, outline how you would develop a risk management plan that will address the type of risk that is presented in the scenario and what the department can do to improve safety. Prepare and forward a memorandum to Battalion Chief McCardle outlining your approach to the plan

Activity: Vehicle Accident Analysis

You are a company officer of the Anytown Fire Department assigned to Fire Station 7, A shift. Fire Station 7 is located near a large housing development, over three square miles in size, and is situated in an wildland/interface environment. Anticipating an emerging threat posed by the possibility of brush and forest fire potential, the fire department stationed Brush Unit 7 in Fire Station 7.

David Dent is the senior firefighter on your shift and is the designated D/O for BU-7. He has been trained to operate fire department engines and aerial devices. Though national statistics indicate that brush units suffer the same accident rate as other fire apparatus, BU-7 has been involved in three accidents with only a small number emergency calls. Firefighter Dent has been the operator in all three accidents. No other accidents have been reported when other Driver/Operators are assigned to the vehicle. Though none have been resulted in an injury, you believe that additional investigation and analysis are needed. The vehicle accidents have occurred often enough that you have become very concerned and believe that a more serious event could happen.

During the time that BU-7 has been in service, it has responded to 317 emergency calls. These calls by shift are:

- 102 - A Shift
- 99 - B Shift
- 116 - C Shift

Of the 102 emergency calls that BU-7 has responded to during A Shift, Firefighter Dent has been on duty and assigned to this vehicle for 95. Each of the other operators of BU-7 has as many responses in the unit as Dent.

D/O Dent approximately 5'5" in height, and wears glasses but his vision is corrected to 20/20. The other drivers assigned to BU-7 are each over six feet tall.

BU-7 is a four-wheel drive vehicle on a standard pickup truck frame that has had a commercial fire body installed on the back. The cab is slightly higher than a normal pickup truck and due to the size of the fire body, oversized mirrors have been installed. These mirrors are of the type used on large trucks. The mirrors can be adjusted inward and outward, but will not move up or down.

Outline how you would develop a risk management plan that addresses brush unit driver safety. Once you have analyzed the information provided, prepare a memorandum to Battalion Chief McCardle.

**ANYTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT**

Date: 11/14/04	Vehicle Assigned Location and Address: Fire Station 7 15673 Hatfield Road
Vehicle Designation: Brush Unit 7	
Name of Operator: D/O David Dent	Vehicle Type: Brush Utility
Drivers License Number: 12345678	Shift: A
Fire Incident Number: 04-038976	Fire Incident Type and Location: Brush fire. Northwest section of Sweethomes Development.
Police Department Accident Report Number: 04-111412540	
Injuries: No injuries.	
Accident Description Narrative: <p>While responding to a reported brush fire BU-7 struck a stop sign on the northeast corner of Carol Avenue and Hatfield Road as it was making a right turn. The stop sign was knocked over and run over by BU-7. The vehicle suffered damage, mostly scraped paint, to the right door and right side of the fire body. D/O Dent stopped the vehicle and checked it for damage, and finding it minor proceeded to the fire for fire suppression activities. Dent claimed that when he looked to the right, the mirror on the passenger side partially blocked his vision causing him to misjudge the proximity of the curb and sign.</p>	
Accident Cause Narrative: <p>The accident occurred while D/O Dent was attempting to make a right turn. The vehicle was turned too early and the rear of the vehicle went over the curb and struck the stop sign. Driver Dent stated that he was traveling at about 45 miles per hour. The posted speed limit is 25 miles per hour.</p>	
Supervisor/Manager: Your Name	Driver/Operator: <i>David Dent</i>

**ANYTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT
VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT**

Date: 03/04/05	Vehicle Assigned Location and Address: Fire Station 7 15673 Hatfield Road
Vehicle Designation: BU-7	Vehicle Type: Brush Unit
Name of Operator: D/O Dent	Shift: A
Drivers License Number: 12345678	Fire Incident Type and Location: Wildland interface fire. Clear Wood Estates Development
Incident Number: 05-067324	
Police Department Accident Report Number: 05-030434769	
Injuries: No injuries	
Accident Description Narrative: While responding to a reported field fire D/O David Dent struck a parked car as he tried to drive around a vehicle pulled to the side of the road. The front right side of BU-7 struck the left front quarter panel of the vehicle. D/O Dent was traveling about 35 miles per hour at the time of the accident and was trying to make a right turn from Clearwater Springs Road onto Bennett Street. The vehicle that was struck by BU-7 was stopped at the intersection.	
Accident Cause Narrative: D/O Dent was operating the BU-7 at 35 mph in a 20 mph zone while responding to a reported wildland fire in the Clear Wood Estates housing development. While attempting to make a hard right turn around a parked vehicle at the intersection of Woodland Acres Drive and Aspen Place, he struck a stopped vehicle. The vehicle was impacted on the left side suffering extensive damage from the driver's door forward. BU-7 sustained damage to the right front quarter panel and passenger door. Additionally, the right front tire was flattened. D/O Dent stated that he was watching for traffic to his left and began to make the turn, misjudging the proximity of the other vehicle. D/O Dent claimed that when looked out the right side window, the mirror blocked his view of the vehicle to his right.	
Supervisor/Manager: Your name	Driver/Operator: <i>David Dent</i>

ANYTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE ACCIDENT REPORT

Date: 10/23/06	Vehicle Assigned Location and Address:
Vehicle Designation: BU-7	Fire Station 7 15673 Hatfield Road
Name of Operator: D/O David Dent	Vehicle Type: Brush Unit
Drivers License Number: 12345678	Shift: A
Incident Number: 07-080424	Fire Incident Type and Incident Location:
Police Department Accident Report Number: 06-1023156348	Brush pile. Northwest quadrant of the Tall Red Oak Estates subdivision – no roadway.
Injuries: No injuries.	
Accident Description Narrative: <p>Following the extinguishment of a large brush fire, D/O Dent was returning to service when he struck a tree with BU-7. The tree was struck by the left side of the vehicle. The impact severely damaged the fire unit. The fire body, including all compartments on the right side, was crushed and the 200-gallon water tank was ruptured. The fire pump was broken from its mountings. The right rear wheel well was displaced into the rear tires. D/O Dent stated that he had just begun to move the vehicle and was turning it around when the accident occurred. He also stated that he had checked his mirrors for objects but because of the location of the right side mirror he did not see the tree.</p>	
Accident Cause Narrative: <p>The accident occurred in an area that was being prepared for development and was covered with slash and debris from these operations. The area where the accident happened was relatively clear except for the oak tree that was struck by BU-7 and about 300 feet from the location of the fire. D/O Dent stated that he had just begun to move the vehicle and was turning it around when the accident occurred. He also stated that he had checked his mirrors for objects but because of the location of the right side mirror he did not see the tree as he turned.</p>	
Supervisor/Manager: Your Name	Driver/Operator <i>David Dent</i>